

Atty. Docket No. 412746

IN THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) An alarm clock system, comprising:
a remotely operable microphone for sensing sound;
at least one processor for processing the sound to determine a voice command[[s]] pre-selected by a user for association with a specific alarm function, the processor initiating the specific alarm function upon determining the user-selected voice command~~and generate an alarm signal based on the voice command~~.
2. (Currently Amended) A system of claim 1, further comprising a real time clock for tracking time for the alarm clock system, the specific alarm function comprising an alarm signal being generated at a time of the real time clock.
3. (Original) A system of claim 1, further comprising a speaker responsive to the alarm signal to generate audible sound.
4. (Original) A system of claim 3, further comprising a radio for generating at least one of music and news as the audible sound.
5. (Original) A system of claim 1, further comprising a battery for powering the system.
6. (Original) A system of claim 1, further comprising a modular housing for encasing and protecting the processor, and a communications link between the housing and the microphone.
7. (Original) A system of claim 6, the communications link comprising an electronic wire for positioning the microphone remotely from the housing.
8. (Original) A system of claim 6, the communications link comprising a wireless relay for positioning the microphone remotely from the housing.
9. (Original) A system of claim 1, the processor comprising a speech synthesis processor to recognize voice data.

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10. (Currently Amended) A system of claim 9, the processor being configurable to initial programming, to identify one or more audible words as the user-selected voice command[[s]] after the initial programming.

11. (Currently Amended) A system of claim 10, further comprising memory for storing digital data representative of the voice command[[s]].

12. (Currently Amended) A system of claim 1, further comprising a wireless transmitter for communicating the specific alarm function to a remote electronic device.

13. (Currently Amended) A system of claim 12, ~~further the electronic device~~ comprising ~~an electronic device having~~ a wireless receiver and selected from the group of a radio, a television, a compact disc player, a DVD player, a satellite cable box, a cooking thermometer device, a hair treatment device, a light switch, an air conditioner, an A/C socket, a coffee machine, or a VCR.

14. (Original) A system of claim 1, further comprising a display for showing time and date information.

15. (Original) A system of claim 1, further comprising an A/D converter for digitizing the sound for the processor.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for generating an alarm, comprising the steps of: automatically sensing sound through a remotely operable microphone; electronically processing the sound to determine one or more voice commands pre-selected by a user for programming an alarm; and generating an alarm at a time set by the user-selected voice commands.

17. (Original) A method of claim 16, the step of generating an alarm comprising generating an audible noise through a speaker.

18. (Original) A method of claim 16, the step of generating an alarm comprising generating music through a speaker.

19. (Original) A method of claim 16, the step of sensing sound comprising sensing sound at a location remote from the step of processing the sound.

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20. (Original) A method of claim 16, the step of electronically processing comprising processing the sound and comparing the processed sound to stored data from a learning sequence.

21. (Original) A method of claim 16, the step of generating an alarm comprising the step of generating a wireless signal to a remote electronic device.

22. (Original) A method of claim 21, further comprising the step of activating or deactivating the electronic device upon receipt of the wireless signal.

23. (Original) A method of claim 16, further comprising the step of initiating the step of processing the sound by detecting an initializing audible voice command.

24. (Original) A method of claim 23, the initializing audible voice command comprising "Voice command."

25. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 23, further comprising the step of stopping the step of processing the sound by detecting a preprogrammed terminating audible voice command.

26. (Original) A method of claim 25, the terminating audible voice command comprising "Manual setting."

27-28. (Cancelled).

29. (Currently Amended) A process for setting date and time of an alarm clock system through voice-control, comprising the steps of:

sensing engagement of a button of the alarm clock system, the button being designated, at least in part, for setting date and time;

if the button is engaged, prompting a user to generate user-selected audible sounds for use in setting date and time; and

automatically and sequentially sensing and storing the user-selected audible sounds ~~emanating from the user as voice commands for selecting, the audible sounds comprising~~ a plurality of (1) AM or PM, (2) hour of the day, (3) minute of the day, (4) year, (5) month, and (6) day; and

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automatically setting the date and time within the alarm clock system based on the audible sounds.

30. (Original) A process of claim 29, the step of automatically and sequentially sensing and storing comprising providing a delay interval between successive audible sounds.

31. (Original) A process of claim 30, the delay interval being at least four seconds.

32. (Original) A process of claim 31, the delay interval being eight seconds.

33. (Currently Amended) A process for setting an alarm and a snooze function for an alarm clock system through voice-control, comprising the steps of:

sensing engagement of a button of the alarm clock system, the button being designated, at least in part, for setting anthe alarm and the snooze function;

once the button is engaged, sensing and storing audible sounds emanating from the user; and

automating alarm and snooze functions of the alarm clock system based on future use of the audible sounds.

34. (Currently Amended) A process of default programming in an alarm clock system through voice-control, comprising the steps of:

entering a learning mode of the alarm clock system;

prompting the user to speak one word of a sequence of words;

capturing and storing audible sounds corresponding to the user's speech of the one word;

if additional words exist in the sequence of words, repeating steps (2) and (3) to sense and store audible sounds of every other word in the sequence of words;

exiting the learning mode; and

responding to the audible sounds corresponding to one or more of the sequence of words to set time, date and snooze functions and to initiate automatic action within and by the alarm clock system, the automatic actions corresponding to time, date and snooze functions.

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35. (Original) A process of claim 34, the sequence of words comprising one or more of the following: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, ... 10, 11...20, 30, 40, 50, AM, PM, VOICE SETTING, and VOICE COMMAND.

36. (Currently Amended) A process of claim ~~34~~34, the step of prompting comprising one or both of (a) displaying information on a display of the alarm clock system and (b) electronically synthesizing human speech encouraging the user to speak.

37. (New) The system of claim 1, the specific alarm function selected from the group comprising activating an alarm; setting an alarm; turning an alarm off; initiating a snooze period; turning on a radio; setting time; setting date; initializing the alarm clock system to respond to one or more other voice commands, and controlling a remote electronic device.

38. (New) The system of claim 13, the specific alarm function comprising wirelessly transmitting a signal to the electronic device, to turn the electronic device on or off.

39. (New) A method for generating an alarm, comprising the steps of:
automatically sensing sound through a microphone;
electronically processing the sound to determine one or more first voice commands;
generating an alarm at a time set by the voice commands;
automatically sensing sound through the microphone while the alarm is playing;
electronically processing the sound to filter out the alarm sound and determine a second voice command;
temporarily suspending the alarm as a function of the second voice command; and
re-starting the alarm after a pre-determined period of time without a voice command.